

DRAWING AMENDMENTS:

Please replace the originally filed Figure 1 of the formal drawings filed on May 16, 2005, with the revised Figure 1 attached to this Amendment by way of a separate sheet.

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended to include the features of claims 3 and 5 and to recite a first and second cushion. These cushions are exemplified by the Applicants' cushions 27 and 26, respectively, which are described on page 16 of the specification and are illustrated in Fig. 1.

Claims 2, 3, 5, and 7 are canceled without prejudice to reentry.

New claim 8 is supported in the drawing, and the specification is amended to provide literal support. New claim 8 is allowable for the reasons below.

In response to the Official Action:

[1] The drawings were objected to for numeral "21" not being mentioned in the specification. The specification is amended. The Examiner also objected to reference numeral "2a" for being mis-directed. A proposed drawing change is attached to correct the direction. No new matter is entered. Approval is requested.

[2] The disclosure was objected to. Correction is made as requested.

[3-4] Claims 1-4 and 7 were rejected under section 102 as anticipated by Patil '284. This rejection is moot.

[5-6] Claim 5 is rejected under section 103 as obvious over Patil and JP '937 to Kazuo. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

(1) Amended claim 1 recites "a cylindrical member which covers the shock absorber body and the motor from outside and whose part to cover the motor also serves as a motor frame," that "an upper part of the external cylinder extends so as to cover the motor, and the frame of the motor is formed at an extended part of the external cylinder, and that "the cylindrical member is constituted by the external cylinder."

With respect, none of the references discloses this.

The Examiner's drawing on page 5 identifies the uppermost casing containing the motor as "cylindrical cover/extended part of external cylinder." However, the external cylinder proper

which lies below is of smaller diameter and is not any portion of the extended part, nor is the extended part any portion of the external cylinder proper. The upper motor casing and the lower cylinder are not integral. They are joined to each other, not directly, but by a third element.

When the claim recites that "the external cylinder *extends* so as to cover the motor," it does not mean that a new cylinder, of different diameter, is attached. The Applicants respectfully submit that an *extended* cylinder is a cylinder that is *longer*, not one that is larger in diameter.

Kazuo also discloses two stacked cylinders, not one extended cylinder. As neither reference discloses the invention, no combination could reach the claims, even if combination were obvious.

New claim 8 more explicitly recites this difference between the claims and the prior art.

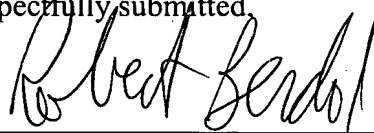
(2) The applied references do not disclose the first and second cushions now claimed, or their positions or interactions with the other parts. Again, no combination (not admitted) could reach the instant claims.

[7] Claim 6 is rejected under section 103 as obvious over Patil and Kazuo in view of JP '982 to Tadashi. This rejection is respectfully traversed, *inter alia*, on the basis of dependence from an allowable claim.

June 13, 2007
Date

RHB/NSB/vm

Respectfully submitted,



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